(a) whether the Hanji Wara bridge on the Indo-Pak Highway bus route (Srinagar to Mazaffarabad Bus Service) was blasted and damaged in the first week of April;

(b) if so, how this happened when police were guarding the bridge;

(c) whether this occurrence have created panic and fear in the mainds of the proposed travelling public; and

(d) what are the effective measure taken to avoid this kind of blasts in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an explosion took place about 100 meters away from the Hanjiwera bridge, located on Srinagar-Uri National Highway without causing any damage.

(c) No, Sir. The passengers from both sides continue to undertake bus journey between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad despite terrorist threats.

(d) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, intelligence agencies have been kept on high alert and the patrolling on the route has been intensified. Besides, these measures, the bridges located enroute are adequately guarded.

Extortion of Government funds by undergroud outfits for North-East

4417. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a wide spread extortion of Government funds in the North-East by the underground outfits for the last several years, with the connivance of certain official belonging to All India Service;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) what are the names of such officials whose connivance has siphoned off Government funds and what action Government have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) There are reports that a part of the development funds are siphoned off by militants in certain areas in the North-East. No assessment about the extent of funds siphoned off has been made. The *modus operandi* adopted by militants is through kidnappings, extortions and by forcing the Government agencies to award contracts to their sponsored contractors. There are no specific reports about involvement of All India Service officials in such activities. North Eastern States have been advised to take penal action in such cases, and to see that the funds are used for the purpose for which they are given.

Inclusion of Kodava Language in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

4418. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for inclusion of 'Kodava' language in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A committee was set up under Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. The Committee has submitted its report and made certain recommendations. A decision on the pending demands for inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Kodava, will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Committee. A decision on the subject involves careful consideration of the issues involved and no time frame can be indicated at this stage.